REMARKS

Claims 1- 22 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 17 being in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 11 and 15 have been amended, Claims 2, 9 and 18-19 have been cancelled without prejudice, and new Claims 20, 21 and 22 have been added. The above-identified Claims have been amended in response to an Office Action issued in a parent case (U.S. Patent No. 6,659,401) on May 21, 2003. Care has been taken to avoid introduction of any new matter.

In accordance with one of the aspects of the present invention, an airplane door lock system has a controller capable of automatically switching its operation between an automatic mode and an emergency mode in response to a detector's output signal generated upon its detection of a predetermined event. In the emergency mode, an on-ground facility and the airplane are in direct communication.

In the parent application, original Claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2002/0158166 to Lin ("Lin").

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 2 and 9 and, as amended, is not anticipated by Lin. Lin, while discussing one of the prior art references, a Japanese Patent to Changzhi (see § [0061]), discloses that it is known to *manually* activate a means for communicating with an on-ground facility in case of highjacking. As disclosed in § [0066] of Lin, "*In case of hijacking, the passengers or aircrew press the emergency buttons* fixed at various places in the airliner, the video camera with long or short lens installed at an appropriate place begins to work, digitizes the information by means of an image processing device or turns the information into FX (facsimile) file format, and then sends the information to the ground monitoring center via the satellite. The ground monitoring center in turn sends information via the satellite to the camera so

that the camera adjusts the foci and angles of the long and short lens. In addition, dialogs may help to solve hijacking." (Emphasis added)

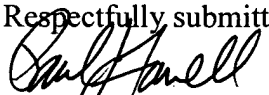
In contrast to Lin, Claim 1 has been amended to specifically recite that a detector generates an output signal triggering a controller to an emergency mode upon automatic detection of a predetermined event. In Lin, human beings generate an output signal; cameras do not generate this output signal, and, in fact, the cameras are operated in response to signals sent from the on-ground facility.

Thus, Lin does not teach or suggest implementing the detector, which is automatically enabled to generate an output signal switching the controller in the emergency mode, as recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore, Lin does not have each and every element as recited in amended Claim 1, which is believed to be patentable over Lin. Claims 3-8, 10-16 and 20-22 depend directly or indirectly from amended Claim 1 and are patentable over Lin at least for the same reasons.

Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claims 18 and 19. As discussed above, the cited prior art neither teaches nor suggests operating a controller in an emergency mode, in which audio and video communication is established between a restricted area and an on-ground facility in response to automatically detecting a predetermined event in the restricted area. Accordingly, Claim 17, as amended, is believed to be patentable.

Thus, Claims 1, 3-8, 10-17 and 20-22 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (516) 228-8484.

Respectfully submitted,



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